



2005 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

September 27, 2005 – Introduced by Senators OLSEN, JAUCH, DARLING, HARSDORF, ERPENBACH, MILLER, HANSEN and S. FITZGERALD, cosponsored by Representatives TOWNS, LEHMAN, ZEPNICK, HINES, BALLWEG, JENSEN, BERCEAU, DAVIS, HAHN, POPE-ROBERTS, KRAWCZYK, KESTELL, FIELDS and TURNER. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **Relating to:** requesting a summit on civic education and providing for the
2 preparation of a report and recommendations to promote and enhance civic
3 education in Wisconsin schools.

4 Whereas, civic education encourages young people to be thoughtful and
5 productive members of their communities and future leaders of the state of
6 Wisconsin; and

7 Whereas, it is essential to the future health of our representative democracy
8 that all young people be knowledgeable about democratic principles and practices,
9 engaged in their communities and in politics, and committed to the public good; and

10 Whereas, on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in 1998, 75
11 percent of pupils scored at “basic” or “below basic” levels; and

12 Whereas, according to *The Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A*
13 *Generational Portrait*, nearly one-half of 15- to 25-year-olds indicate that civic
14 education increases their interest and participation in civic affairs; and

1 Whereas, individuals who have a clear understanding of the rights and
2 responsibilities of citizen in a representative democracy are more likely to exercise
3 those rights and responsibilities; and

4 Whereas, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic
5 Learning and Engagement, only 42 percent of eligible 18- to 24-year-olds voted in
6 the 2004 presidential election; and

7 Whereas, service learning and project-based civic learning have consistently
8 been shown to engage pupils in learning, improve their attitudes toward school, and
9 have positive effects on their civic skills, knowledge, and abilities; and

10 Whereas, providing civic education is a core mission of Wisconsin elementary
11 and secondary schools and is explicitly recognized as an educational goal under s.
12 118.01 (2) (c) of the statutes; and

13 Whereas, civic education is crucial to the long-term social and political health
14 of Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

15 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
16 legislature requests the state superintendent of public instruction, in cooperation
17 with the governor of Wisconsin, to convene a summit on civic education with the goals
18 of developing a strategy for promoting and enhancing civic education within the state
19 and recommending a plan for improving civic education in the state's public
20 elementary and secondary schools; and, be it further

21 ***Resolved, That*** if a summit on civic education is convened, the delegates shall
22 include the Wisconsin delegates to the congressional conferences on civic education,
23 and shall include a diverse range of other delegates, including elected officials;
24 students, teachers, and administrators from elementary and secondary education;

1 members of the judiciary; representatives of civic organizations; representatives of
2 the media; and other public members; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** if a summit on civic education is convened, the delegates shall
4 provide a report, with their findings and recommendations for future action, to the
5 president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly by December 1, 2006.

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(END)